IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, please replace the title with the following rewritten title:

-- METHOD FOR MAKING DRYWALL BEAD WITH KNURLED PAPER FLAPS --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Building construction over the years has typically involved framing to form a framework of vertical studs and cross members. Previously it was known to cover the studs with vertically spaced apart, horizontal slats, known as lath, and then to cover such slats with plaster troweled in place by a craftsman to provide a smoother finish. Plaster finishing was a very demanding task requiring skill and experience. While enjoying popularity, it was believed there were problems of one lath and plaster walls shifting relative to another thus cracking and irregularities in the product. In recognition of the perceived problem, various types of corner fittings were proposed, including a rolled metal expansion strip having a pair of separator ribs radiating outwardly at 90° to one another to form cylindrical rolls having their respective outer extents disposed at the outer surface of the plaster layer so that the outer surface of plaster trapped therebetween, when troweled evenly into the ribs, will form a 45° finish chamfer. The vertical strip of plaster trapped between the ribs is then separated from that covering the lath in the adjacent walls. An expansion device of this type is shown in the 1934 U.S. Patent No. 2,012,203 to Peterson. It was contemplated that this expansion bead was to be nailed in place on the lath construction. To my knowledge such a device never gained broad acceptance in the lath and plaster construction field, and is not adopted to use as a tape or bead for drywall construction. Absent the nail holes imparted on the metal flange, there is no means for anchoring the fitting to joint compound on the interior of the fitting so as to, when cured, anchor the fitting firmly in place.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Drywall corner fittings take many configurations and those for right angle corners typically incorporate cores with orthogonal flanges. The flanges may joint at a sharp 90° corner or may be formed with a rounded rib defining a bead raised from the exterior surfaces of the flanges to define a raised edge or bead. Drywall construction finishing is sometimes referred to collectively as beads and typically fall into the category of nail or tape-on beads. One common feature of many of the nail trim strips or corner beads is the use of a rigid or semi-rigid core fittings that caps the drywall corner joint to provide support and to prevent the drywall from being chipped or cracked along the otherwise exposed edges of the panels, typically incorporating nail holes for nailing in place. Typical materials known and used in the art for such cores include galvanized steel, aluminum, plastic, and sometimes stiff, thick paper. It has been proposed to serrate the exterior of a metal core to provide a roughened surface to enhance attachment of compound to such exterior. Beyond the fact that these so called nail-on beads must be nailed in place, is the disadvantage that the drywall joint compound applied to the corner joints to complete the assembly may not readily adhere to such rigid and semi-rigid materials or may easily conceal nail or screw heads, making it difficult to cover, sand, paint or otherwise finish out the corner joint in an aesthetically-pleasing manner.

Efforts to overcome the shortcomings of metal beads have lead to extruded one piece nail-on plastic beads with a thick core and integral thin flaps constructed with nail holes. To facilitate the joint compound in adhering to the outer surface of the outer surface of the flanges, it has been proposed to form such outwardly facing surfaces with striations much like record grooves and spaced bodily from the thicker core. A device of this type is shown in U.S. Patent No. Re 34,547 to Weldy. While satisfactory for some application as a nail on drywall bead, such devices do not function well as a tape-on styled bead without such nailing.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Sub B3 --To enhance the function and finished appearance of such drywall corner beads, a covering of some other material such as paper or fabric has been employed. The challenge is to provide such an exterior covering that is substantial enough to secure the inner core in position while being thin enough to create a smooth transition between the cover and the underlying drywall. One bead developed to address some of the problems with the prior art is a corner bead with a metal core, covered on its exterior with a paper cover which projects beyond the opposite lateral edges to form flexile, flaps. Such flaps, projecting beyond the edges of the flanges, can serve to form a smooth transition over such edges, and have been proposed to anchor the bead in place. Stock paper had the advantage that frayed fiber ends would facilitate adherence to the joint compound as it covered. The problem was that the frayed ends would project outwardly from the outer surface and would, upon sanding to finish, compound applied thereover, project through the compound as unsightly surface. By impregnating the paper throughout with latex, it was believed that the fraying could be reduced and the paper strengthened. It was proposed that the core be covered with wallboard grade paper and that it be impregnated with latex to make the paper resistant to scuffing and such fraying. It was perceived that this construction exhibited poor joint compound bonding properties, thus subjecting it to unwanted peeling. Devices of this type are shown in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,613,335 and 5,836,122, both to Rennich. In effort to improve bonding properties, it was proposed to construct a tape-on bead with a stock paper having a high resistance to abrasion, such as backing used in commercially available sandpaper. It was perceived that any deficiency in bonding could be overcome by abrading the surface of the paper to loosen the surface fiber in effort to improve the bonding to the surface of the wallboard. A bead of this type is shown in U.S. Patent No. 6,295,776 to Kunz. In effort to improve the strength of bond to the joint compound, the flat flaps were formed with small holes so compound applied to the exterior would flow through. While such fraying of the fibers may, in fact, serve to resist peeling, experience has shown that the flat bead that Kunz proposed, a drywall fitting with a classic raised bead at the juncture between its two flanges to serve as a straight edge for application of compound to the exterior of the flanges. In any event, until now craftsmen have been forced to select between nail-on or fitting which are time consuming to install or tape-on

fittings having flat paper flaps which do not bond well into the compound thereby being susceptible to pulling free from the cured joint with only minimal forces being applied thereto.

It has been common practice to apply joint compound, often referred to in the field as mud, to the interior surfaces of the core and the flanges prior to installation on a drywall corner. This compound then acts as an adhesive to help hold the bead temporarily in place while it is nailed or compound is applied to paper flaps and is available to flow through holes in the flanges or to adhere to the interior surfaces of paper flaps.--

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 7.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Thus, there exists a need for a tape-on drywall bead which is inexpensive to manufacture and which incorporate paper flaps constructed to be securely anchor in place by joint compound applied under such flaps. With the enhanced anchoring capabilities, it would also be helpful if such flaps were strengthened against unwanted separation of the paper flaps when forces are applied to the core tending to force it away from the drywall. The present invention is directed to just such a drywall bead.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention provides a drywall bead which is convenient to install and still effective to attractively cover and protect the drywall panel joint. The drywall joint assembly strip device of the present invention is characterized by a lengthwise, longitudinal flexible flap projecting from at least one side of a core and configured with longitudinal grooves and ridges to provide a mechanical anchor in the joint compound on the underside thereof when covered

therewith. In this regard, such grooves and ridges being formed on the interior side of the flaps can be particular effective in taking advantage of the joint compound, once cured, to firmly anchor the bead in position. In one aspect of this invention, the paper flaps are constructed of paper fibers mixed with strengthening compound at the time of manufacture. This serves to not only bond the fibers in place against abrading or fraying when during finish sanding the layer of covering compound is sanded through.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, in one embodiment elongate core 20 is formed having a generally curved transverse cross-section to form what is known as a bull nose shape defining a convex outer surface 22 and a concave inner surface 24. The elongate flanges 26 project laterally beyond the longitudinal edges of the core. In the embodiment of the strip device shown, transitions are formed at the opposite sides of the bull nose curve to define slight bends serving to direct the respective flanges outwardly away from each other at an angle of about ninety degrees. The core may be made of a number of rigid or semi-rigid materials such as galvanized steel, aluminum, and a variety of plastics, including vinyl, nylon, and PVC. In a preferred embodiment, I have found that flaps formed with a plurality of parallel groove 56 and ridges 58 formed on the opposite sides thereof perform satisfactorily. A representative embodiment is formed with the grooves spaced laterally apart a distance of about 1/8th of an inch and the ribs formed to bow outwardly in transverse cross section as described below. Thus, once embedded, such ribs present respective barriers against lateral shifting of the respective flanges relative to the joint compound embedded in the respective grooves. Depending on the material selected and the core cross-section desired, the core may be formed through a variety of processes known in the art, including casting, molding, extruding, or roller-forming.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The paper defining the cover 40 is bonded to the outer surface 22 of the formed core 20, using a hot melt glue or other such adhesive known in the art. Such cover is wider than such core so that the opposite margins 42 project laterally beyond the longitudinal edges 30 of the core to form the flaps 50. In one embodiment, such cover is bonded centered on the core so that the flaps are symmetrical on the opposite sides thereof. Generally, the cover is rectangular and positioned so that the longitudinal edges extend parallel to the respective longitudinal edges of the core. By extending beyond the edges of the underlying rigid core, both the outwardly-facing surfaces 52 and inwardly-facing surfaces 54 of the flaps are exposed free of such core. Referring to Figs. 2 and 3, compound applied to the underside surface 54 of the flaps will, when cured, firmly affix the bead in place. Based on the grooved construction described, and with the flaps constructed of fibrous stock material mixed with strengthening compound, it will be appreciated that the flaps may be formed with a relatively straight longitudinal configuration and will resist flexing along the longitudinal plane while still being somewhat flexible relative to the longitudinal edges of the core to facilitate conforming to the drywall as they project from the opposite edges of such core. Thus, this preferred embodiment offers the advantage that the flaps are constructed to allow joint compound to be applied to the under surface 54 prior to mounting to the drywall corner, as shown in Fig. 4, while the configuration of the longitudinal ridges provide support against flexing from the respective longitudinal planes of the respective flaps, thereby maintaining relatively straight longitudinal flaps to engage against the straight surface of the underlying drywall.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring now to FIG. 3, the elongate, flexible flaps 50 are configured along their length with parallel grooves 56 and ridges 58. The ridges 58 are interposed lengthwise between the grooves 56, and are generally parallel to them. In one embodiment, three grooves and four ridges are formed in each flap. As noted, such lengthwise grooves and ridges cooperate to serve

the purpose of reinforcing ribs and to provide linear stiffness for the flaps, thereby serving to reinforce against flexing out of the longitudinal plane to minimize longitudinal fluting or waviness in such flaps along their respective lengths while still allowing each flap to bend or flex relatively freely about an axis parallel to the respective longitudinal edges 30 of the core 20. It will be appreciated that this configuration maximizes the workability of the drywall joint assembly strip device 10 of the present invention, as the flaps are held straight in the longitudinal direction but are free to flex about vertical axes to lay down flat over the marginal edges of the joining drywall panels.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In use, the drywall joint assembly strip device 10 of the present invention is installed vertically in covering relationship over the drywall corner joint 104 such that the concave interior surface 24 of the core 20 is adjacent to the corner joint. Typically, the strip device is cut to a length substantially equal to the length of the corner joint so as to completely cover and protect the entire corner joint. Wet drywall joint compound is applied to the interior or exterior surface of the strip and blended with the strip device 11 whether manually or by an applicator. As has been common practice in the field, the bead may be run through a conventional applicator to apply joint compound to the interior surface 54 to cause such compound to, when the bead is positioned on the corner joint 104, adhere the bead temporarily in place. The strip device is then applied to the desired corner joint 104, with the joint compound adhering it in position while a finishing layer compound may be applied to the exterior drywall surfaces all along the joint using a conventional troweling or other such technique known in the art in order to produced a smooth, aesthetically-pleasing, finished corner joint. As the joint compound cures, the flaps 50 will be held firmly in position by such compound itself forming mirror images of the ridges and grooves in the surface 54.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The bead device of the present invention has been well received in the market place and is preferred by many over prior art beads devices. It will be appreciated that it provides an effective and economical strip device for covering and protecting an underlying drywall joint. The strip device may be formed in many different configurations to suit a variety of drywall joint applications, and optimizes the ease and effectiveness of installing the strip device on a drywall joint through its novel flexible flaps projecting laterally beyond the respective flanges of the core and having lengthwise grooves and ridges to be anchored into joint compound as it cures.